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Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-29 (canceled)

Claim 30 (original) A post-to-beam connector for post and beam furniture systems of the type having a plurality of overhead beams with slots extending along uppermost and lowermost faces thereof, and a plurality of vertical posts having at least one outwardly extending flange having an end face with a vertical slot extending therealong, comprising:

an elongate T-shaped central portion adapted to be attached to an end of an associated one of the beams, and configured to be closely received in the slot in the upper portion of an associated one of the posts;

upper and lower key portions projecting inwardly from said central portion, and being shaped for close reception in the slots in the uppermost and lowermost faces of the associated beam; said upper and lower key portions including horizontally extending fastener apertures therethrough; and

a pair of T-fasteners having shank portions thereof mounted in said fastener apertures in said upper and lower key portions, and T-shaped nut portions thereof threadedly connected

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with said shank portions, and shaped to be closely received in the slot of the associated post, such that tightening said T-fasteners draws the end of the one beam and the one post together to securely, yet detachably, interconnect the same.

Claim 31 (original) A post-to-beam connector as set forth in claim 30, including:

an outwardly projecting stop which abuts an uppermost end of the one post to locate and retain one beam at the upper portion of the one post.

Claim 32 (original) A post-to-beam connector as set forth in claim 31, wherein:

said T-fasteners include allen head bolts.

Claim 33 (original) A post-to-beam connector as set forth in claim 32, wherein:

said central portion includes a plurality of laterally extending vertically spaced apart fastener apertures.

Claim 34 (original) A post-to-beam connector as set forth in claim 33, including:

a plurality of fasteners extending through said fastener apertures for attaching said post-to-beam connector to the end of the one beam.

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Claims 35-64 (canceled)

Claim 65 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space, comprising:

a plurality of overhead beams, each having opposite ends;

a plurality of vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be abuttingly supported in a freestanding fashion on a floor surface of the open office space in a laterally spaced apart relationship, and an upper portion thereof operably connected with the opposite ends of said overhead beams to support said beams at a predetermined elevation above average user height; at least one of said posts having an X-shaped plan configuration defining four mutually perpendicular, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with a single T-shaped vertical slot extending centrally therealong; at least one of said posts having a Y-shaped plan configuration defining three regularly spaced apart, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with a single T-shaped vertical slot extending centrally therealong; and

a plurality of beam-to-post connectors attached to the opposite ends of said beams, and detachably retained in said slot of aligned pairs of said flanges on said posts to support said beams on said posts at said predetermined elevation.

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Claim 66 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 65, wherein:

at least one of said beam-to-post connectors includes an outwardly projecting stop which abuts an uppermost end of an adjacent one of said posts to locate and positively retain an associated one of said beams at said predetermined elevation.

Claim 67 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 66, including:

at least one partition accessory configured to equip said furniture system for users, and having a mount portion thereof detachably retained in said slot of one of said posts.

Claim 68 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 67, wherein:

at least one of said beams has an uppermost face with a single T-shaped horizontal slot extending therealong, and a lowermost face with a single T-shaped horizontal slot extending centrally therealong; and

at least one of said beam-to-post connectors has key portions thereof detachably retained in said slots in the uppermost and lowermost faces of said one of said beams.

Claim 69 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 68, wherein:

said one of said beams includes opposite side faces, each of which includes a T-shaped hanger slot extending longitudinally therealong; and

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each of said slots in said posts and said beams is generally similar in size and shape to receive the mount portion of said accessory therein.

Claim 70 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 69, wherein:

said one of said beams includes integrally formed bosses with open ends at the opposite ends thereof to facilitate connecting therewith one of said beam-to-post connectors.

Claim 71 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 70, wherein:

said partition accessory comprises a plurality of partition accessories, each configured differently to customize said furniture system for various users.

Claim 72 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 71, wherein:

said partition accessories include an external wire manager with a mount portion thereof shaped to be detachably retained in one of said slots on said posts and said beams.

Claim 73 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 72, wherein:

said partition accessories include an in-fill panel with a mount portion thereof shaped to be detachably retained in one of said slots on said posts and said beams.

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Claim 74 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 73, wherein:

said partition accessories include a white board with a mount portion thereof shaped to be detachably retained in one of said slots on said posts and said beams.

Claim 75 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 74, wherein:

said partition accessories include a workstation light with a mount portion thereof shaped to be detachably retained in one of said slots on said posts and said beams.

Claim 76 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 65, including:

at least one partition accessory configured to equip said furniture system for users, and having a mount portion thereof detachably retained in said slot of one of said posts.

Claim 77 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 65, wherein:

at least one of said beams has an uppermost face with a single T-shaped horizontal slot extending therealong, and a lowermost face with a single T-shaped horizontal slot extending centrally therealong; and

at least one of said beam-to-post connectors has key portions thereof detachably retained in said slots in the uppermost and lowermost faces of said one of said beams.

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Claim 78 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 76, wherein:

at least one of said beams includes opposite side faces, each of which includes a T-shaped hanger slot extending longitudinally therealong; and
each of said slots in said posts and said beams is generally similar in size and shape to receive the mount portion of said accessory therein.

Claim 79 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 65, wherein:

at least one of said beams includes integrally formed bosses with open ends at the opposite ends thereof to facilitate connecting therewith one of said beam-to-post connectors.

Claim 80 (previously presented) A post and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space, comprising:

a plurality of horizontal beams, each having opposite ends;
a plurality of vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be abuttingly supported in a freestanding fashion on a floor surface of the open office space in a laterally spaced apart relationship, and an upper portion thereof operably connected with the opposite ends of said beams to support said beams at a predetermined elevation; at least one of said posts having an X-shaped plan configuration defining four mutually perpendicular, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with a single T-shaped vertical slot

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extending centrally therealong; at least one of said posts having a Y-shaped plan configuration defining three regularly spaced apart, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with a single T-shaped vertical slot extending centrally therealong;

a plurality of beam-to-post connectors attached to the opposite ends of said beams, and detachably retained in said slot of aligned pairs of said flanges on said posts to support said beams on said posts at said predetermined elevation; and

a plurality of partition accessories to equip said furniture system, each configured differently to customize said furniture system for various users, and having a mount portion thereof detachably retained in said slot of one of said posts.

Claim 81 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 80, wherein:

at least one of said beams includes opposite side faces, each of which includes a T-shaped hanger slot extending longitudinally therealong; and

each of said slots in said posts and said beams is generally similar in size and shape to receive the mount portion of said accessories therein.

Claim 82 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 81, wherein:

said partition accessories include an external wire manager with a mount portion thereof shaped to be detachably retained in one of said slots on said posts and said beams.

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Claim 83 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 82, wherein:

said partition accessories include an in-fill panel with a mount portion thereof shaped to be detachably retained in one of said slots on said posts and said beams.

Claim 84 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 83, wherein:

said partition accessories include a white board with a mount portion thereof shaped to be detachably retained in one of said slots on said posts and said beams.

Claim 85 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 84, wherein:

said partition accessories include a workstation light with a mount portion thereof shaped to be detachably retained in one of said slots on said posts and said beams.

Claim 86 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 85, wherein:

at least one of said beams has an uppermost face with a single T-shaped horizontal slot extending therealong, and a lowermost face with a single T-shaped horizontal slot extending centrally therealong; and

at least one of said beam-to-post connectors has key portions thereof detachably retained in said slots in the uppermost and lowermost faces of said one of said beams.

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Claim 87 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 88, wherein:

at least one of said beam-to-post connectors includes an outwardly projecting stop which abuts an uppermost end of an adjacent one of said posts to locate and positively retain an associated one of said beams at said predetermined elevation.

Claim 88 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 80, wherein:

at least one of said beams has an uppermost face with a single T-shaped horizontal slot extending therealong, and a lowermost face with a single T-shaped horizontal slot extending centrally therealong; and

at least one of said beam-to-post connectors has key portions thereof detachably retained in said slots in the uppermost and lowermost faces of said one of said beams.

Claim 89 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 80, wherein:

at least one of said beams includes integrally formed bosses with open ends at the opposite ends thereof to facilitate connecting therewith one of said beam-to-post connectors.

Claims 90-93 (canceled)

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Claim 94 (currently amended) ~~A furniture system as set forth in claim 90, wherein:~~ In a post and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space, the improvement comprising:

at least one horizontal beam having opposite ends;

at least two vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be abuttingly supported in a freestanding fashion on a floor surface of the open office space in a laterally spaced apart relationship, and an upper portion thereof operably connected with an associated one of the opposite ends of said overhead beam to support said beam at a predetermined elevation; said posts each having an X-shaped plan configuration defining four mutually perpendicular, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with a single T-shaped vertical slot extending centrally therealong;

at least two beam-to-post connectors attached to the opposite ends of said beam, and detachably retained in said slot of an aligned pair of said flanges on said posts to support said beam on said posts at said predetermined elevation; and wherein

said beam includes integrally formed bosses with open ends at the opposite ends thereof to facilitate connecting the same with one of said beam-to-post connectors.

Claim 95 (previously presented) In a post and beam furniture system for partitioning open office space, the improvement comprising:

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at least one horizontal beam having opposite ends;

at least two vertical posts, each having a lower portion thereof adapted to be abuttingly supported in a freestanding fashion on a floor surface of the open office space in a laterally spaced apart relationship, and an upper portion thereof operably connected with an associated one of the opposite ends of said overhead beam to support said beam at a predetermined elevation; said posts each having a Y-shaped plan configuration defining three regularly spaced apart, outwardly extending flanges, each of which has an end face with a single T-shaped vertical slot extending centrally therealong; and

at least two beam-to-post connectors attached to the opposite ends of said beam, and detachably retained in said slot of an aligned pair of said flanges on said posts to support said beam on said posts at said predetermined elevation.

Claim 96 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 95, including:

at least one partition accessory configured to equip said furniture system for users, and having a mount portion thereof detachably retained in said slot of one of said posts.

Claim 97 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 95, wherein:

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said beam has an uppermost face with a single T-shaped horizontal slot extending therealong, and a lowermost face with a single T-shaped horizontal slot extending centrally therealong; and

at least one of said beam-to-post connectors has key portions thereof detachably retained in said slots in the uppermost and lowermost faces of said beam.

Claim 98 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 95, wherein:

said beam includes opposite side faces, each of which includes a T-shaped hanger slot extending longitudinally therealong; and

each of said slots in said posts and said beams is generally similar in size and shape.

Claim 99 (previously presented) A furniture system as set forth in claim 95, wherein:

said beam includes integrally formed bosses with open ends at the opposite ends thereof to facilitate connecting the same with one of said beam-to-post connectors.